

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, YO, US
SUBJECT: SIROTKOVIC VISIT TO US

1. PRESIDENT OF CROATIAN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, JAKOV SIROTKOVIC AND PARTY RETURNED TO ZAGREB THIS MORNING, APRIL 19. IN SIROTKOVIC'S COMMENTS TO THE PRESS AND IN CONVERSATION WITH THE CONSUL GENERAL AT THE AIRPORT, SIROTKOVIC SPOKE GLOWINGLY OF HIS MEETINGS WITH RANKING OFFICIALS AND POLITICIANS IN WASHINGTON AND EXPRESSED PLEASURE IN HIS EXPERIENCES AT MIDLAND, MICHIGAN WITH DOW; IN PITTSBURGH WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND AMONG CROATIAN EMIGRES; AND IN NEW YORK WITH DAVID ROCKEFELLER AT CHASE MANHATTAN BANK.

2. IN HIS PUBLIC STATEMENT SIROTKOVIC SAID HE ENCOUNTERED A MOST FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE IN THE UNITED STATES TOWARDS YUGOSLAVIA AND A STRONG AMERICAN INTEREST IN CONTINUING POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS. HE TOUCHED LIGHTLY ON THE KRSKO NUCLEAR PROJECT SAYING THAT THE US IS MOST INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING THE MATTER FURTHER IN ORDER TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM TO THE MUTUAL SATISFACTION OF BOTH PARTIES. IN HIS REFERENCE TO THE DOW-INA JOINT VENTURE PROJECT AND HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE DOW MANAGEMENT, SIROTKOVIC MENTIONED "SMALL TECHNICAL PROBLEMS" IMPLYING THAT THESE WERE IN FACT SMALL AND THAT THE PROJECT

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WAS PROCEEDING WELL. HE INDICATED THAT AT EXIMBANK AND WITHIN THE AMERICAN PRIVATE BANKING COMMUNITY, HE HAD ENCOUNTERED A CONTINUING INTEREST IN YUGOSLAVIA.

3. SIROTKOVIC TOLD THE CONSUL GENERAL THAT HE HAD BEEN DEEPLY IMPRESSED BY THE CORDIALITY, CANDOR AND STRAIGHTFORWARDNESS OF THE AMERICAN OFFICIALS WITH WHOM HE HAD MET AT THE WHITE

HOUSE, AT THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND COMMERCE, AND AT OTHER US AGENCIES. HE WAS IMPRESSED BY THE POSITIVE US INTEREST IN YUGOSLAVIA AND THE DESIRE TO PROMOTE BILATERAL RELATIONS. HE NOTED THAT US OFFICIALS WERE WELL BRIEFED AND SPOKE DIRECTLY TO SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS OF BILATERAL INTEREST. SIROTKOVIC SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MEET WITH RANKING OFFICIALS IN THE NEW ADMINISTRATION AND FELT THAT HIS VISIT WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. SIROTKOVIC SAID HE WILL BE BRIEFING BAKARIC AND "OTHER LEADERS" ABOUT THE VISIT AND WILL CONVEY DIRECTLY TO THEM HIS IMPRESSIONS.

4. ALTHOUGH THE TRIP TO THE US HAD BEEN STRENUOUS FOR SIROTKOVIC AND HIS PARTY, THEY WERE ALL CLEARLY ELATED BY THEIR EXPERIENCES AND FROM THEIR POINT OF VIEW CONSIDERED THE TRIP A SUCCESS.

5. BELGRADE COMMENT. PRESS HERE WAS EQUALLY UPBEAT ABOUT SIROTKOVIC'S VISIT. BOTH BELGRADE PRESS AND RADIO REPORTED THAT SIROTKOVIC SAID GROUP OF U.S. REPRESENTATIVES WERE COMING TO YUGOSLAVIA TO REVIEW WITH YUGOSLAVS ALL OPEN QUESTIONS CONCERNING KRSKO. IF TRUE, WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION. ON DOW, LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THAT PROBLEMS WERE "ECONOMIC" IN CHARACTER. THIS SUGGESTS THAT GOY ECONOMIC CONCESSIONS SUCH AS THOSE ON TREATMENT OF IMPORTS OF EQUIPMENT AND RAW MATERIAL FOR CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF PROJECT, HAVE NOT YET BEEN FORMALIZED. SUCH CONCESSIONS, WHILE AN INTEGRAL PART OF DEAL, COULD NOT BE COVERED IN CONTRACT WHICH WAS REGISTERED LAST OCTOBER, SINCE CONTRACT WAS BETWEEN DOW AND INA, NOT DOW AND GOY. KAISER

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Message Attributes

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